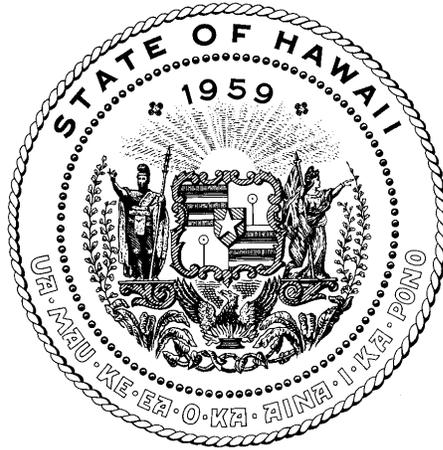


REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
2008 REGULAR SESSION

JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS IN HAWAII



PREPARED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In response to Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007

November 2007

## JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS IN HAWAII

Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), with the assistance of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH), the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition, the Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF), and other organizations as may be appropriate, to establish a process to determine the most appropriate means of memorializing the World War II (WWII) Japanese internment camp experience in Hawaii.

In doing so, this Act directs DLNR to consider fully:

- (1) Any research, collections, and other information compiled by cultural and historical organizations or individuals;
- (2) Information on the size and current condition of the five known internment camps: Honouliuli Internment Camp and Sand Island on Oahu, Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Internment Camp on Maui, and the Kalaheo Stockade on Kauai, and recommendations for preserving the Camps, if feasible to do so;
- (3) Cost estimates for the establishment and ongoing operations of any WWII Japanese internment camp memorial projects and funding sources, including potential federal funds; and
- (4) Recommendations for long-term organizational management of any WWII Japanese internment camp memorial.

DLNR's State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has been working with JCCH and HHF to determine the location of the five identified Japanese internment camp sites in Hawaii. SHPD has also worked with them to develop a plan to determine the best way to memorialize these sites. SHPD contacted the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition, a Washington DC based organization, to gain their input. The Japanese American National Heritage Coalition informed SHPD that JCCH is one of their member organizations that SHPD should work with them directly.

### **Existing Research and Collections**

In compiling this report DLNR has considered research, collections, and other information compiled by cultural and historical organizations and individuals. This information includes oral histories, photographs, documentation, written histories and maps. Information contained in this report concerning all sites comes from research done by JCCH in conjunction with the University of Hawaii and visiting archaeologist Dr. Jeff Burton. Dr. Burton is one of the leading experts on Japanese internment camps, having surveyed more than 70 places where people were imprisoned during WWII, including Honouliuli.

Much of the information regarding Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) comes from material in the possession of the National Park Service (NPS) and staff at KMC. SHPD staff visited KMC and met with representatives of the Camp, as well as representatives of NPS. NPS owns the land on which the Camp is located. Research conducted at NPS offices included SHPD's review of the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for KMC, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Island of Hawaii. This document includes historic maps of the Camp, which show the locations of the structures used during the internment camp period. The documentation includes maps from the 1930's and 1940's

showing that the remaining structures in which the Japanese were interned were constructed in 1933. These maps also show the location of the Prisoner Of War (POW) camp that was constructed on the site and demolished shortly after the last POWs were released. This documentation also includes the List of Classified structures, which includes photos and information on each structure.

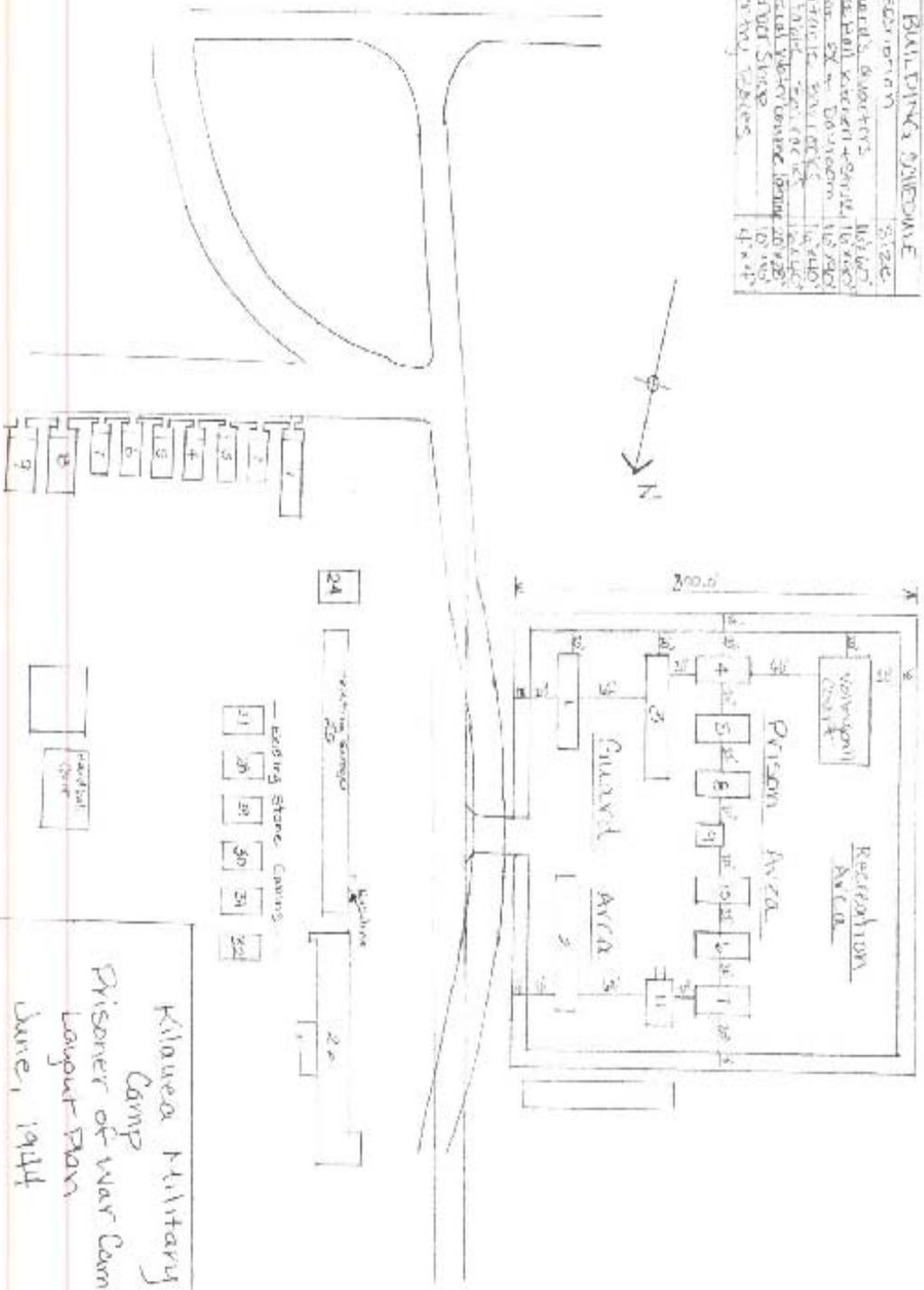
### **Current Condition of Known Internment Camp Sites**

The JCCH has done research on all five sites to try and ascertain their locations. Staff at KMC and NPS have done research on their own site and discovered maps and written documents regarding the internment camp experience at KMC. This report will examine each of the five known internment camp sites in order from the most to the least intact.

The most intact of the five sites is KMC, which has structures on the site that were used during its time as an internment camp. This site is owned by the Federal Government. NPS owns the land and the Army owns the majority of the improvements on this land. There are six structures remaining on the site in which Japanese detainees were interned. These structures measure 16' x 30'; they are now used as vacation cabins and have been altered significantly for this purpose. They have stained glass windows and the interiors have been drastically changed for the comfort of the guests. There is no visible signage indicating the significance of these structures as the only standing structures in which Japanese in Hawaii were interned.

Another area of the camp (see attached map) was the POW area where Korean and Okinawan prisoners were kept. It is believed that this POW area was probably also used for the Japanese internees as well. These structures were demolished shortly after the end of WWII, and this area is currently a maintenance yard.

POW BUILDINGS SCHEDULE		
Number	Description	Size
1	Quarters, Quarters	10' x 20'
2	General Hall, Kitchen, Store	10' x 20'
3	Admin. Bldg. Washroom	10' x 20'
4-7	Sanitary, Washrooms	10' x 20'
8-10	Sanitary, Washrooms, Bath	10' x 20'
11	Special Washroom, Bath	10' x 20'
12	Ed. Out. Shop	10' x 20'
13-17	Sanitary, Washrooms	10' x 20'



Kilauea Military Camp  
Prisoner of War Camp  
Layout Plan  
June, 1944



1933 Stone Structures at KMC  
Photograph taken by: Katherine Kastner  
October 2007



1933 Stone Structures at KMC  
Photograph taken by: Katherine Kastner  
October 2007

The second site is Honouliuli, located on approximately 60 acres of agricultural-zoned land in Ewa on Oahu. This site was recently purchased by Monsanto Group, an agricultural company. Archaeological investigations at this site have led to the discovery of one large concrete slab, two smaller slabs, and a hole in the ground, likely a former latrine. Also discovered were some smooth stones that are evenly spaced, indicating that they were once part of a path. Monsanto Group has indicated to JCCH that this is not good agricultural land and that they have no plans to cultivate it, and therefore they would be open to the possibility of JCCH or other organizations using this land to memorialize the Japanese internment camp experience.

The other three sites on Maui, Kauai, and Sand Island on Oahu have little fabric remaining. JCCH attempted to determine the location of these three sites, but has not been able to find their exact locations. While JCCH believes they know where the sites on Sand Island and Maui are located, both of these sites have since been developed. The Sand Island area is industrial and it is unlikely that evidence of the internment camp remains in this location. The area on Maui has been developed as a residential area. There are varying theories as to where the Kauai site is located. JCCH spoke to a number of individuals who lived on Kauai during WWII and none of them could say exactly where the camp was located. JCCH will continue their efforts to determine the location of this site as well as the exact location of the Maui and Sand Island sites.

JCCH suspects that military maps showing the exact boundaries of these camps exist, and that they may be located at the National Archives in Washington DC. SHPD staff contacted staff in the cartography division of the National Archives who informed SHPD that they do not have any maps of relocation camps in Hawaii. The only relocation camp maps in their files are from the west coast of the United States.

### **Recommendations for Preserving the Camps**

It is not feasible to preserve the Haiku Internment Camp on Maui, or Sand Island on Oahu, as both of these sites have been developed. The Kalaheo Stockade on Kauai may be able to be preserved, however more work needs to be done to ascertain the exact location of the site before it can be determined if any physical evidence of the Camp remains. The sites at KMC and Honouliuli retain the greatest amount of integrity worthy of preservation.

The remaining structures at KMC are the only standing internment camp structures in the State. It is important that all of these structures be preserved and that there be signage that explains the history of these structures. It is the recommendation of SHPD that some of these structures be rehabilitated and returned to their original appearance.

Archaeologists are planning to begin work to determine the extent of the site at Honouliuli under the supervision of Dr. Bayman of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This work is set to begin in February and they do not have an exact time frame for when they plan to have this report completed. The concrete slabs, pathway, and latrine that have been discovered thus far should be preserved and work should continue to determine any other possible remnants of internment camp structures as well as the boundaries of this camp.

### **Cost Estimates and Funding Sources**

The Department of Accounting and General Services has provided SHPD with preliminary conceptual budget estimates based on \$150 per square foot of existing building spaces for possible renovation work (not including asbestos material and lead abatement work) plus about \$250,000 per acre for minimal site improvement work. The estimate to renovate one of the cabins at KMC would be approximately \$72,000, SHPD estimates that two would be needed for the memorial given the size of the cabins.

DAGS estimates the cost of research, including collections and other information from cultural organizations or individuals to be comparable to doing an “archaeological reconnaissance survey” (mainly a paper search on historical references with related photo documentation work) in accordance with typical SHPD requirements which is estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in consultation services per site.

In terms of information on the size and current condition of known internment camp sites DAGS anticipates that the following needs to be completed in order to assess this: The site needs to be assessed in terms of its existing utility and infrastructure systems as well as land use and zoning issues. A general analysis of existing structures needs to be done as well. Consulting services for this should be approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 per site. Once the site is assessed a conceptual preservation plan should be developed. The cost for this portion will be \$35,000-\$40,000 in consultant services for verification and clarification of long range goals and objectives as well as compilation of existing and future staffing space needs, functional relationships, and operational requirements as well as the development of up to 3 alternative conceptual site plan layouts. The total cost for the site assessments and preservation plans should total between \$60,000 and \$70,000 per site.

In order to establish on going operations of a WWII Japanese internment camp memorial including long-term organizational management of and WWII Japanese internment camp memorial will require the development of a plan. DAGS guesstimate for this expense is at least \$15,000-\$20,000 (comparable to about 150-200 man hours in related consultant services).

The cost of doing research, site assessments, renovation work, and operations of a memorial at the KMC site will be approximately \$180,000 if one cabin is used and \$250,000 if two cabins are used.

### **Memorial Ideas**

Given the development of the Maui and Sand Island sites and the inability to locate the Kauai site, the best options for the memorial are either at KMC or Honouliuli. SHPD proposes the following measures be implemented to memorialize the camps.

**Phase I:** As the first step in memorializing the internment camp experience in Hawaii, JCCH and SHPD recommend that a plaque be placed at each of the five sites. In cases where the exact location of the site cannot be determined or where the area is heavily developed, a plaque should be placed in a location near the original site. The plaque should be located in an area where it can be easily accessed and viewed by the public.

The cost of the plaque would vary depending on the size of the plaque and whether or not an appropriate place to mount the plaque already exists near the site. SHPD estimates an

18" x 24" plaque to cost approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 (\$12,500-\$15,000 total for all five sites) depending on the intricacy of the plaque design and the amount of lettering on the plaque, this does not include the cost of mounting the plaque. The cost of mounting these plaques would vary greatly depending on where they are located. The possible locations of the plaques still need to be determined.

**Phase II:** As a second step, SHPD recommends that an interpretive center be located at KMC, as this site is the most intact. SHPD would like to examine the possibility of turning either one or two of the cabins there into an interpretive center, with information about what life was like for the internees in the camps. KMC and the NPS, who owns the land, are open to working with DLNR on the possibility of developing a memorial at this site. There is interest on the part of KMC staff and NPS in doing archaeological excavations to examine the former POW camp area, possibly reconstructing a portion of this area in the future.

The second possibility is to develop a memorial at Honouliuli. In this case, structures would have to be built, as well as a road to access the site. If possible, structures should be reconstructed in their original locations based on the archaeological information unearthed by JCCH and the archaeologists working with them. The site is currently in the process of being sold to Monsanto Group. Monsanto is open to the possibility of the land being used for the purpose of developing a memorial. An agreement would have to be worked out with the owners to allow public access. Whether this option would involve either the leasing or purchase of this land still needs to be determined.

There are advantages and disadvantages to the use of each of these areas. KMC is the most intact, and both the NPS and KMC are open to the possibility of having the memorial at this location. The existing structures, however, have been changed and would have to be rehabilitated in order to be used as part of the memorial. This site is heavily visited by tourists, it is located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and is accessible from inside the park both by foot and by car. Since there is already a draw to this area it will make it much more likely for people to visit the site.

Honouliuli, while not as intact as KMC does still possess remnants of the internment camp. However, it is SHPD's recommendation that KMC be the location of the memorial rather than Honouliuli, as it is more intact and it is located in an area that is already a tourist destination.

JCCH has indicated that they would prefer that the memorial be located at Honouliuli. If the site were located at Honouliuli JCCH would have to examine different funding options such as federal or state funding in order to determine whether or not they would be able to maintain the site. JCCH has indicated that they do not have the resources to maintain the site without outside assistance. It would not be possible to place the memorial at any of the other sites due either to the development of the area or the lack of information about the location.